



Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Flood Control  Water Agency

March 15, 2010

Santa Barbara County IRWM Region Participants

RE: Proposition 84 Memorandum of Understanding

Introduction

As part of its coordinating role in the State's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Agency) has developed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU, dated March 4, 2010 is necessary in order to adapt to the program's changing priorities and the needs of its participants. Following is a brief background of the IRWM Program and a description of the ways in which the new MOU differs from those that precede it.

Background

The IRWM program was developed to promote integrated assessment and planning for both water quality and water quantity issues, flood control and climate change response on a regional basis. It places emphasis on collaboration within shared hydrologic regions and watersheds and increasingly on inclusivity of a wide array of stakeholders and interested parties.

In 2006, local entities collaborated to participate in the process established by the California legislature pursuant to The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act (Public Resources Code Section 75001- 75009). In accordance with this legislation, the Cooperating Partners developed an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the basis for grant application in Proposition 50 and Proposition 84. Santa Barbara County-wide interests successfully prepared an IRWMP pursuant to Proposition 50 guidelines and successfully sought grant funding to implement key projects included in that plan.

Proposition 84 provides funding for a range of water related plans and projects and builds on the previous Proposition 50 program. Proposition 50 is managed jointly by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), while Proposition 84 is managed solely by DWR.

The March 4, 2010 MOU updates previous agreements and commitments made by some of the Cooperating Partners between 2006 and 2009, including an MOU for initial preparation of the IRWMP

(July 2006) and an MOU for pursuing Proposition 50 implementation grant funding (October 2007). This MOU will replace the March, 2009 MOU pertaining to Proposition 84.

Proposition 84 stipulates that \$52,000,000 must be awarded to the Central Coast Region (including Santa Barbara County.) DWR has conducted a Regional Application Process (RAP) by which Santa Barbara County interests applied and was accepted as a region defined by the County boundary with water related interests extending into adjacent regions.

March 4, 2010 MOU

At the time that the March, 2009 MOU was developed, DWR requirements in relation to the Proposition 84 grant were not fully developed. The March 4, 2010 MOU addresses emerging requirements and emphases included in the Proposition 84 legislation, grant guidelines, and information shared by DWR during the RAP interview. A modified MOU that addresses issues of inclusiveness and governance was agreed to by Santa Barbara County region representatives as part of the RAP process.

Inclusiveness:

Proposition 84 legislation requires that a wide range of stakeholders be included in the IRWM process. Therefore, the MOU specifically allows participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs, specifically 501 (c) (3)s (4)s and (5)s) having a tax exempt status to participate fully in the Cooperating Partners and Steering Committee by performing tasks or committing time as service in lieu of a financial contribution.

Governance:

During the RAP process DWR expressed specific concerns regarding the lack of detail within the existing MOU regarding the governance requirements, decision making structure and procedures of the Cooperating Partners and Steering Committee. For this reason, the March 4, 2010 MOU outlines procedures regarding the functions and decision making processes of these groups.

Joining of Parties:

In order to facilitate participation by as many stakeholders as possible, the MOU establishes a procedure to allow for parties to join the Cooperating Partners at any time during the process.

Brown Act:

The MOU removes the requirement for Proposition 84 meetings to be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

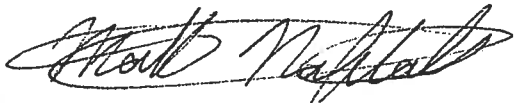
Scope:

The MOU modifies and adds to the scope of issues to be included in an IRWM plan and addressed by the Proposition 84 process in order to address changing conditions and DWR requirements.

The MOU is scheduled to go to the County Board of Supervisors on April 6, 2010 and will be forwarded to DWR when approved.

If you have any questions regarding the MOU, please contact me.

Matt Naftaly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Naftaly", written in a cursive style.

Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Water Agency Manager